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C. R. Potter

Narragansett Times.

TERMS, IN ADVANCE ONLY,
ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUM.

VOL. 1.

"Truth against Error--Victory or Death."

WAKEFIELD, R. I., SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1855.

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No. 12.

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For the Narragansett Times.

Sad Thoughts.

BY HARRY HAZEL.

I'm a lonely wandering stranger,
In this dark, cold world of sin;
Clouds of sorrow hover round me,
Each bright ray of hope to dim.

All the world looks sad and dreary,
All its pleasures transient, few;
All my hopes of youth have perished,
There cometh none that's new,
To gently guide my footsteps,

As sorrowing I roam,
To point me to that earthly boon,
A peaceful, happy home.

I'm a lonely, friendless wanderer,
Journeying through this "vale of tears,"
My joys, unknown—my hopes—so dear,
Have perished with their years.
The friends I won in sunshine's hour
Alas! they too have flown,
On time's swift wing to fairer flowers,
And left me here alone;

With none to guide my footsteps
As sorrowing I roam,
To point me to that earthly boon,
A peaceful, happy home.

The tear drop starts—my eyes grow dim,
As memory back doth turn,
To scenes of childhood now gone by,
And never to return.

But ah! there is one hope for me,
Although a chastening rod,
Yet 'tis a blessing I adore,
That one bright hope in God,
Who'll guide my wandering footsteps,

As wandering I roam,
And point me to that heavenly boon,
A peaceful, happy home.

July 7, 1855.

The Western Pioneers;

OR SUCCESS AND FAILURE.

"I cannot see what pleasure you find
in eternally poring over these books—
while we are having such glorious times
after our day's work is over; here you are
shut up like a snail in his shell, never
getting more than head and shoulders out-
side. Night before last we were out fish-
ing until twelve o'clock; last night we
went on a boat excursion with the girls,
and to night we are to have a whist party
and a dance at Letty Jane's. She was
one of our party, and invited us all up.
I am sorry you were not along, as I urged
you, so as to have an invitation also."

"It is just as well, as I could not ac-
cept if I had one. For a week past I
have been trying at every leisure moment,
to solve a difficult problem in Day's Al-
gebra, and have at last hit upon the right
solution. The equation is now formed
and I am sure of the result."

"Nonsense to that, I say! What
benefit or what pleasure is there in fill-
ing one's head with such stuff! and besides,
if it takes a week to solve one problem,
how long do you suppose it will take you
to go through the entire book?"

"I am not often a week on a single
problem, but this has been a poser; and
as no one of our fellow-workmen are fam-
iliar with the science, I can get no help
from them. The Principal of the Acad-
emy has kindly assisted me over two or
three hard spots, but I would rather not
call on him unnecessarily. It takes long-
er, I know, but once over the matter
alone, I understand it all the better."

"And you expect to go through Al-
gebra alone, do you?"

"Yes; why not? Since we have been
here, now three years, I have mastered
the Arithmetic which I only half un-
derstood at school. I have perused care-
fully a treatise on book-keeping by double
entry; thoroughly studied text-books on
Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and Bot-
any, and besides keeping posted up in the
news of the day, I have read a history of

the United States, a history of England,
and a Universal history in ten volumes.

All this has been done besides attending
to my work, and during the hours in
which you and the others are having such
glorious times, as you call them. My
enjoyments may be less boisterous than
yours, but I venture to say they are
equally as great."

"Ephraim is joined to his idols, let him
alone," responded the other in a tone of
mock solemnity, and withdrew.

The above colloquy passed between two
young journeymen mechanics, who were
laboring in the same shop in a little inland
town in one of the older States. There
was in the place a pleasant society of
various abilities and character; but there
was not population enough, nor wealth
enough, to break them up into sets; and
the children of the lawyer and merchant
met on terms of tolerable equality with
those of the journeyman mechanic and the
young farmer. Differences in intellectual
attainments and personal attractions ex-
isted, it is true. Nature forms the human
body more or less beautiful, and the hu-
man mind more or less acute; and industry
properly directed and opportunities im-
proved cause one, no more brilliant in the
outset, to rise above his fellows. We are
too apt, however, to mistake the causes,
and to refer to natural abilities what is due
to mental discipline. How do we ascribe
an acute mind, a retentive memory, a
logical habit of thinking and speaking, to
innate qualities instead of intense study.

Silas Dean was one of those rare and
industrious young men occasionally to be
met with in the humblest walks of life.
Few as his opportunities were, he was mak-
ing the most of them, and laying a sure
foundation for an honorable position in the
world's esteem. Modest and unobtrusive,
he was disposed to withdraw from, rather
than to challenge admiration; and hence,
in the society of the giddy and thought-
less, he was frequently eclipsed by rattle-
ling, shallow and handsome coxcombs like
his fellow-workman, Lester Daniels. The
latter was a kind-hearted and companion-
able young man, however, and a feeling of
cordial friendship existed between them.
Both were brought up together, both
nearly of the same age, and each felt a
sincere desire for the other's welfare. The
former, who saw clearly the advantages
under all circumstances, of a mind well
stored with useful knowledge, tried hard
to win his comrade over to his own way
of thinking and acting. Young Daniels
preferred the evanescent pleasures of the
passing hour, to his own future usefulness
and well-being.

Time sped on, and the young men be-
came mature in years. Each married the
girl of his heart, assimilated in both in-
stances in tastes and habits to the men
who chose them. Dean's wife was a sen-
sible, quiet girl, not peculiarly beautiful,
but good looking, and possessed of a heart
overflowing with every good quality that
makes the true woman really the better
portion of humanity. Daniel's wife was
brilliant, but flashy and vain, empty of
head and frivolous of heart. She could
command partners at a ball and elicit ad-
miration at a party, but she could not con-
tent herself nor make a husband contented
with a humble and quiet hearthstone.

Neither of the young men possessed
sufficient capital to embark in business on
his own account, and fortunate it was for
them, perhaps, that it was so; for a pecu-
niary crisis speedily fell upon the coun-
try, which in too many instances, swept
away in a season, the slow and painful ac-
cumulations of years. Some laid the sad
reverses to over-trading and speculation;
some to a reduction of the tariff; some to
the vetoing of a United States Bank.
Each class of politicians had its own pecu-
liar theory, and was anxious for office,
in order to apply the proper correctives in
State policy, and pocket the emoluments.
Let the causes have been what they may,
the consequences were unmistakable, and
bankruptcy overtook many a business
man, the dark shadows of which haunted
him to his grave; or if still alive, yet hang
over him in the shape of uncompromised
debts and unsatisfied judgments. The
business which the young journeymen pur-
sued was ruined irretrievably; and after
trying in vain to obtain employment at
their trade, they determined to abandon
it, and seek in some other channel the
means of subsistence. But what should
it be? was the question. Other employ-

ments were equally suffering, and the door
was consequently shut against them in all
the departments of industry. Fortunately
for our countrymen who have strong
hands and brave hearts, there were then,
as there are now, broad fields for labor
open at the West; a land rich in every
element of prosperity, and only awaiting
the hand of honest industry, to transmute
them into gold; or if not into gold, some-
thing better than gold—fields laden with
a golden harvest, orchards groaning with
their weight of fruit, broad landscapes
musical with the lowing of herds and the
bleating of flocks.

Our heroes emigrated to the West, and
pitched their tents in Northern Indiana,
then a wilderness overgrown with one of
the densest forests ever seen. They
squatted on government land, and claimed
the right of pre-emption whenever it should
be surveyed and offered for sale. But
how was the dollar and a quarter per acre
to be obtained? Very little money was
in circulation in that region then, and
what was brought in by immigrants found
its way into the government treasury in
payment for land, and was returned again
to the East. No market was afforded for
produce—the lines of public improvement
since constructed were then scarcely
thought of, much less begun. A bushel
of wheat had to be exchanged for five
pounds of sugar, or four ounces of tea;
neat cattle were driven on foot a thousand
miles to market, the cost of which was
nearly equal to their value. The dense,
dark forest closed around our emigrants,
and seemed to shut them out forever from
the society of their fellow-men.

Two years' struggling with difficulties
in their new home decided the destiny of
both. Daniels and his wife became dis-
couraged, yielded in the contest, packed
up the most valuable of their household
goods in a rickety wagon, and betook them-
selves and their children, sick and despond-
ent, back again to the old State, poorer
than when they left, and thoroughly dis-
gusted with a life at the West. "It
would never," he said, "be anything but
a wilderness inhabited by wolves and mus-
quitos; and the only consolation any one
living there could have, would be the com-
fortable warmth of a fever after the freez-
ing of an ague fit. For his own part, he
chose to go back where, at least, he could
have the satisfaction of seeing a man's face
once in three months."

He lives at this time near his early
home, a day laborer at his former trade,
and pays two dollars and fifty cents a
bushel for the wheat that supplies him
with his daily bread. His children, it is
true, are not a burden to him now; two
of them are dead, and the third ran away
to sea. Whether he will ever rise above
the condition of common sailor, at sixteen
dollars a month, can be answered in the
light of the facts that he is a stalwart,
able-bodied seaman, great at belaying a
rope and reefing a mainsail, and—
"nothing more." In his youth, like his
father, he could see no use of mental cul-
ture, and consequently in his manhood,
he can no more take an observation with a
sextant, calculate a ship's longitude, or
keep a log, than he can translate into En-
glish the doctrines of Confucius.

But in the meantime how prospered it
with Dean? Both he and his wife were
of the right stamp to meet the exigencies
of the case; intelligent, energetic and per-
severing; they cast about them earnestly
for the means of clearing the land, and
gaining a comfortable livelihood. After
looking well over the ground, and con-
sidering the subject in all its forbidding
aspects, Dean's knowledge of chemistry
came in opportunely to his aid. He
erected a rude log manufactory, hired a
rough specimen of a pioneer to assist him,
and then set to work felling the forest and
burning the huge logs into ashes. These
he leached, boiled the liquid down into
potash, and manufactured the product in-
to saleratus. It proved a fortunate and
profitable undertaking; his land was clear-
ed, and the manufactured article, at that
time scarce and valuable through all the
West, brought a price even in cash that
would now astonish the manufacturer of
"Babbett's best." His wife, after a lit-
tle instruction, was enabled to direct the
labors of the half-savage Indian, while her
husband, first traveling on foot and after-
wards on horseback, sold the manufactur-
ed article through the wide scattered set-
tlements. As the forest slowly receded

from the immediate neighborhood of his
humble home, and the blackened stumps
remained the only monuments of its fallen
greatness, the bearded wheat and the
rustling corn succeeded in its stead. An
apple and a peach orchard, reared from
the seed wisely brought along with them
at their first coming, speedily came into
bearing, and plenty began to smile within
and around the dwelling. A careful at-
tention the draining of wet places in the
vicinity, the extermination of a rank
growth of poisonous plants, and other sani-
tary measures suggested by the general
knowledge of our pioneer, soon put to
flight the ague and other similar scourges
of all new countries. Among the minor
details, but one of the most effective in
this respect, was a simple filter of charcoal
dust, through which the water used by the
family was made to percolate and trickle
into a rude basin placed below, as limpid
as the purest dew that ever kissed the lips
of Aurora. His knowledge of botany dis-
closed to him the medicinal properties of
plants, and supplied the place of many a
deadly mineral and drug.

Brighter pecuniary prospects also, open-
ed upon the settlers day by day. The
Wabash Canal was first talked of, then
entered upon, then completed. It
provided them with a market only forty
miles distant. A plank road speedily
furnished the connection, and very soon
thereafter the first line of the Michigan
Southern Railroad was constructed. At
the present time of writing, the Northern
Indiana Railroad Company are straighten-
ing their line, so that the main trunk of that
gigantic thoroughfare, with an important
railroad station, is located within half a
mile of Dean's new dwelling. Wood and
timber, which a dozen years ago were in-
cumbrances upon his hands, are now im-
mensely valuable as articles of traffic.
The produce of his farm brings unprece-
dented prices in cash at his very door, the
country around is filled with a thriving
population, and one unacquainted with the
history of that region would declare, as he
looked upon the waving harvests and the
fruitful orchards, the fine dwellings of the
farmers and the giant works of internal
improvement, that the country had been
settled two centuries at least. Dean is
wealthy, but what is far better, he com-
mands the respect and confidence of his
fellow-citizens, is blessed in his household
relations, and is rearing up a family that
will be a joy to their parents and an honor
to their country. —*Rural New-Yorker.*

SEARCH FOR WIVES.—Where do
men usually discover the women who
afterwards become their wives? Is a
question we have occasionally heard
discussed, and the custom has invari-
ably become of value to young lady
readers. Chance has much to do
in the affair; but then there are im-
portant governing circumstances. It
is certain, that few men make a selection
from ball rooms, or any other
place of public gaiety; and nearly as
few are influenced by what may be
called showing off in the streets, or by
any allurements of dress. Our convic-
tion is, that ninety-nine hundredths of
all the fiery with which women de-
corate or load their persons goes for
nothing as far as husband-catching is
concerned. Where and how, then, do
men find their wives? In the quiet
homes of their parents or guardians, at
the fireside, where the domestic graces
and feelings are alone demonstrated.
These are the charms which most sure-
ly attract the high as well as the hum-
ble. Against these, all the finery and
airs in the world sink into insignifi-
cance. We shall illustrate this by an
anecdote, which, though not new, will
not be the worse for being again told.
—In the year 1773, Peter Barrall,
Esq., of Beckenham, in Kent, whose
health was rapidly declining, was ad-
vised by his physicians to go to Spa
for the benefit of his health. His
daughters feared that those who had only
motives entirely mercenary would not
pay him that attention which he might
expect from those who, from duty and
affection united, would feel the great-
est pleasure in ministering to his ease
and comfort; they therefore resolved
to accompany him. They proved that
it was not a spirit of dissipation and
gaiety that led them to Spa, for they
were not to be seen in any of the gay

and fashionable circles—they were
never out of their father's company,
and never absent from home except to
attend him, either to take the air or
drink the waters—in a word, they liv-
ed a most reclusive life in the midst of a
town then the resort of the most illus-
trious and fashionable personages of
Europe. This exemplary attention to
their father procured these three ami-
able sisters the admiration of all the
English at Spa; and was the cause of
their elevation to that rank in life to
which their merits gave them so just a
title. They were all married to noble-
men—one to the Earl of Beverly—another
to the Duke of Hamilton, and
afterwards to the Marquis of Exeter—
and a third to the Duke of Northum-
berland; and it is justice to them to
say that they reflected honor on their
rank, rather than derived any from it.
—*N. Y. Bee.*

ROTATION OF CROPS IN THE GARDEN.—
It is the custom of many, who have small
vegetable gardens, to plant the same crops
in the same spots year after year. This
may be done and a good crop may be ob-
tained, if the land is deeply trenched and
thoroughly manured every year. But
without these precautions, crops will al-
most certainly degenerate. The onions
very likely will become maggoty and re-
late, and the peas fail to fill out well, and the
cabbages show small heads. Though we
manure abundantly and work the soil two
spits deep, we find it of great advantage
to change the locality of the crop every
year, with few exceptions. Asparagus
cannot very well be changed, and onions
seem to do better upon the same spot year
after year. —*Am. Agri.*

THE BIBLE IN SCHOOLS.—The Su-
preme Court of Maine has decided the
interesting case of Donohoe vs. Rich-
ards and others, involving the right of
school committees to require the read-
ing of the English Bible in schools.
The suit was brought in behalf of a
girl attending one of the public schools
of Ellsworth, against the School Com-
mittee of the town, for prohibiting her
attendance at the school. The Com-
mittee had directed the English Bible
to be read in the school. Several chil-
dren of Roman Catholic parents, of
whom the plaintiff was one, refused to
comply with the regulation, and were
prohibited from attending the school
until they would comply with the rule.
The case was argued by Mr. James S.
Rowe, of Bangor, for the plaintiff, and
Mr. R. H. Dana, Jr., of Boston, for de-
fendants. The opinion was delivered
by Judge Appleton, and occupies six
columns of the *Bangor Courier*. The
decision is in favor of the School Com-
mittee.

GO AHEAD.—This is a fast age.
Every thing is done under high pres-
sure. The busy world are impatient
to have their orders executed at once.
They will not wait for any one who
quires time for any kind of work. They
go ahead, go ahead is the universal re-
sponse of society to every one who pro-
poses to do anything. Society will
pardon defects in the execution of
but she will not pardon procrastination.
nor will she tolerate, whining, and
success.

If we relax our endeavors, the com-
munity only say that ill success is de-
served, and that if we would better our
fortunes we must do something that
society wants and do that something
quickly. The man who earnestly tells
us what he is going to do is only a
bore. What is he doing, what has he
done, are the only questions that people
ask. They know only two classes of
people—those who go ahead, and those
who don't. The former elicit their
admiration and pocket their dollars.
The last only excite their pity, or per-
haps, their contempt.

Don't therefore, loiter along in the
journey of life. You have something
to do. Ascertain what this is, and go
ahead.

LOVERS' JARS.—Jars in courtship are
as common and natural as showers in
spring, and we think as beneficial. If
they assist in the development of char-
acter.